

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A filament or fibre, comprising:
an elongate core having a core axis;
a substance having at least one electrically modulatable optical characteristic, covering at least a portion of the core;
and
an electrical stimulation means adapted to produce an electric field extending in a direction substantially parallel to the core axis or in a direction extending substantially circumferentially about the core axis, wherein the electric field electrically induces a change in the optical characteristic of the substance, thereby changing the visual appearance of the filament or fibre.
2. (original) The filament or fibre of claim 1, wherein the elongate core is formed from electrically insulating material.
3. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the elongate core is substantially cylindrical.
4. (currently amended) The fibre or filament of ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the stimulation means comprises an

elongate stimulation layer extending in a direction substantially parallel to the core axis, the stimulation layer being substantially coaxial with the core.

5. (currently amended) The fibre or filament of ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, comprising a plurality of elongate stimulation layers, each extending in a direction substantially parallel to the core axis, and each being substantially coaxial with the core, each layer being spaced apart from the core axis by a separation radius that is different from the separation radius of at least some of the other layers.

6. (currently amended) The fibre or filament of claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~, wherein the stimulation means further comprises one or more substance layers each extending in a direction substantially parallel to the core axis, the substance layers being substantially coaxial with the core and each associated with at least one stimulation layer.

7. (original) The filament or fibre of claim 6, wherein the substance layers extend substantially along the entire length of the core.

8. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of ~~any of the claims 4 to 7~~claim 4, wherein each stimulation layer includes at least one electrode array.

9. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of ~~any of claims 4 to 8~~claim 4, wherein each stimulation layer includes a plurality of electrode arrays.

10. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of ~~claim 8 or claim 9~~, wherein each electrode array is adapted to produce an electric field substantially within a stimulation layer, the electric field extending along a direction substantially parallel to the core axis or in a direction extending substantially circumferentially about the core axis.

11. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of ~~any of claims 8 to 10~~claim 8, wherein each electrode array is associated with at least a portion of the substance.

12. (original) The filament or fibre of claim 11, wherein the electric field is adapted to electrically induce a change in the optical characteristic of the portion of the substance.

13. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of ~~any of~~
~~claims 8 to 12~~claim 8, wherein the core is in contact with a
stimulation layer.

14. (original) The filament or fibre of claim 13, wherein
the stimulation layer is sandwiched between the core and at least
one substance layer.

15. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of claim 13-~~or~~
~~claim 14~~, wherein each electrode array extends circumferentially
and axially along at least a portion of an outer surface of the
core.

16. (original) The filament or fibre of claim 15, wherein
each electrode array is adapted to produce an electric field
extending substantially along the portion of the outer surface of
the core in a direction substantially parallel to the core axis or
in a direction substantially circumferentially about the core axis.

17. (original) A filament or fibre, comprising:
an elongate core having a core axis;

a substance having at least one electrically modulatable optical characteristic, covering at least a portion of the core; and

an electrical stimulation means comprising a first and a second electrode pair adapted to produce an electric field extending in a direction substantially parallel to the core axis or in a direction extending substantially transversely to the core axis, wherein the first and second electrodes are disposed in the same off-axis plane, and wherein the electric field electrically induces a change in the optical characteristic of the substance, thereby changing the visual appearance of the filament or fibre.

18. (original) The filament or fibre of claim 17, wherein the electrical stimulation means further comprises a plurality of electrode pairs in the form of an electrode array, the electrode array disposed in the same off-axis plane.

19. (original) The filament or fibre of claim 18, wherein the electrical stimulation means further comprises a plurality of co-planar electrode arrays.

20. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of ~~any of~~
~~claims 8 to 16 or claim 19~~claim 8, wherein each electrode array is
electrically independent.

21. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of ~~any of~~
~~claims 8 to 16 or claim 19 or claim 20~~claim 8, wherein each
electrode array includes segmented electrodes.

22. (original) The filament or fibre of claim 21, wherein at
least one electrode is adapted to be individually addressed.

23. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of ~~any of~~
~~claims 8 to 16 or claims 18 to 22~~claim 8, wherein the electrodes in
an array have different predetermined spacings and/or different
predetermined lengths, so as to produce variations in the electric
field in the filament or fibre.

24. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of ~~any of~~
~~claims 8 to 16 or claims 18 to 23~~claim 8, wherein the electrodes
are interdigitated electrodes.

25. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, further comprising one or more sheaths substantially coaxial with the core.

26. (original) The filament or fibre of claim 25, wherein the one or more sheaths are at least partially transparent.

27. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of claim 25 ~~or claim 26~~, wherein the one or more sheaths are formed from a non-conductive flexible polymer.

28. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, further comprising spacer means.

29. (original) The filament or fibre of claim 28, wherein the spacer means comprises one or more spacer wires extending in a direction substantially parallel to the core axis.

30. (original) The filament or fibre of claim 28, wherein the spacer means comprises a plurality of substantially spherical beads.

31. (original) The filament or fibre of claim 30, wherein the substantially spherical beads are contained within the substance.

32. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of ~~any of~~
~~claims 28 to 31~~claim 28, wherein the spacer means are formed from electrically insulating material.

33. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of ~~any~~
~~preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the electrically modulatable substance is an inorganic or organic electro-luminescent material or a liquid crystal material.

34. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of ~~any~~
~~preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the core is made from a flexible polymer fibre.

35. (original) The filament or fibre of claim 31, wherein the polymer fibre can be selected from any one of the following: polyester, polyamide, acrylic, polypropylene, vinyl-based polymers, wool, silk, flax, hemp, linen, jute, rayon, cellulose acetate and cotton.

36. (currently amended) The filament or fibre of any ~~preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the optical characteristic of the substance is the colour.

37. (currently amended) A garment formed from a plurality of filaments or fibres according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1.

38. (currently amended) A textile formed from a plurality of filaments or fibres according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1.

39. (original) A filament or fibre substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.